

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
NORTHEASTERN DIVISION**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION,**

Plaintiff,

v.

**DONALD ANTHONY WRIGHT,
RETIREMENT SPECIALTY GROUP,
INC.,**

Defendants.

NO. 2:24-cv-00065

JUDGMENT AS TO DEFENDANT DONALD ANTHONY WRIGHT

The Securities and Exchange Commission having filed a Complaint and Defendant Donald Anthony Wright ("Defendant") having entered a general appearance; consented to the Court's jurisdiction over Defendant and the subject matter of this action; consented to entry of this Judgment without admitting or denying the allegations of the Complaint (except as to jurisdiction and except as otherwise provided herein in paragraph VIII.); waived findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect to this Judgment and the remedies and other relief imposed herein; and waived any right to appeal from this Judgment:

I.

Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act") [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)] in the offer or sale of any security by the use of any means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by use of the mails, directly or indirectly:

(a) to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud;

(b) to obtain money or property by means of any untrue statement of a material fact or any omission of a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or

(c) to engage in any transaction, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser

by, directly or indirectly, (i) creating a false appearance or otherwise deceiving any person, or (ii) disseminating false or misleading documents, materials, or information or making, either orally or in writing, any false or misleading statement in any communication with any investor or prospective investor, about:

(A) any investment strategy or investment in securities,

(B) the prospects for success of any product or company,

(C) the use of investor funds,

(D) compensation to any person,

(E) Defendant's qualifications to advise investors; or

(F) the misappropriation of investor funds or investment proceeds.

As provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

II.

Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from violating, directly or indirectly, Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") [15

U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5], by using any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or of the mails, or of any facility of any national securities exchange, in connection with the purchase or sale of any security:

- (a) to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud;
- (b) to make any untrue statement of a material fact or to omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
- (c) to engage in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person

by, directly or indirectly, (i) creating a false appearance or otherwise deceiving any person, or (ii) disseminating false or misleading documents, materials, or information or making, either orally or in writing, any false or misleading statement in any communication with any investor or prospective investor, about:

- (A) any investment strategy or investment in securities,
- (B) the prospects for success of any product or company,
- (C) the use of investor funds,
- (D) compensation to any person,
- (E) Defendant's qualifications to advise investors; or
- (F) the misappropriation of investor funds or investment proceeds.

As provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

III.

Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from violating Sections 206(1) and (2) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act") [15 U.S.C. §§ 80b-6(1) and 80b-6(2)] by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, directly or indirectly:

- (a) employing any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud any client or prospective client; or
- (b) engaging in any transaction, practice, or course of business which operates as a fraud or deceit upon any client or prospective client

by, directly or indirectly, (i) creating a false appearance or otherwise deceiving any client or prospective client, or (ii) disseminating false or misleading documents, materials, or information or making, either orally or in writing, any false or misleading statement in any communication with any client or prospective client, about:

- (A) any investment strategy or investment in securities,
- (B) the prospects for success of any product or company,
- (C) the use of client funds,
- (D) compensation to any person,
- (E) Defendant's qualifications to advise clients; or
- (F) the misappropriation of client funds or investment proceeds.

As provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

IV.

Pursuant to Sections 21(d)(1) and 21(d)(5) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(1), (5)], Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from directly or indirectly participating in the issuance, purchase, offer, or sale of any security; provided however that such injunction shall neither prevent Wright from purchasing or selling securities listed on a national securities exchange for his own personal account, nor prevent Wright from purchasing or holding equity securities issued by privately held companies for his own personal account, and further provided that he may sell any such equity securities if, and only if, the sale either constitutes a complete divestment of Wright's interest in a privately held company or occurs in direct conjunction with a change in control in a privately held company in which Wright holds an equity interest.

As provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

V.

Pursuant to Section 21(d)(2) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(2)] and Section 20(e) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77t(e)], Defendant is prohibited from acting as an officer or director of any issuer that has a class of securities registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 781] or that is required to file reports pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78o(d)].

VI.

Defendant shall pay disgorgement of ill-gotten gains, prejudgment interest thereon, and a civil penalty pursuant to Section 20(d) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77t(d)], Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(3)], and Section 209(e)(1) of the Advisers Act [15 U.S.C. § 80b-9(e)]. The Court shall determine the amounts of the disgorgement and civil penalty upon motion of the Commission. Prejudgment interest shall be calculated from July 30, 2023, based on the rate of interest used by the Internal Revenue Service for the underpayment of federal income tax as set forth in 26 U.S.C. § 6621(a)(2). In connection with the Commission's motion for disgorgement and/or civil penalties, and at any hearing held on such a motion: (a) Defendant will be precluded from arguing that [he, she, it] did not violate the federal securities laws as alleged in the Complaint; (b) Defendant may not challenge the validity of the Consent or this Judgment; (c) solely for the purposes of such motion, the allegations of the Complaint shall be accepted as and deemed true by the Court; and (d) the Court may determine the issues raised in the motion on the basis of affidavits, declarations, excerpts of sworn deposition or investigative testimony, and documentary evidence, without regard to the standards for summary judgment contained in Rule 56(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. In connection with the Commission's motion for disgorgement and/or civil penalties, the parties may take discovery, including discovery from appropriate non-parties.

VII.

The Consent is incorporated herein with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein, and that Defendant shall comply with all of the undertakings and agreements set forth therein.

VIII.

Solely for purposes of exceptions to discharge set forth in Section 523 of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. §523, the allegations in the complaint are true and admitted by Defendant, and further, any debt for disgorgement, prejudgment interest, civil penalty or other amounts due by Defendant under this Judgment or any other judgment, order, consent order, decree or settlement agreement entered in connection with this proceeding, is a debt for the violation by Defendant of the federal securities laws or any regulation or order issued under such laws, as set forth in Section 523(a)(19) of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. §523(a)(19).

IX.

This Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter for the purposes of enforcing the terms of this Judgment.

X.


There being no just reason for delay, pursuant to Rule 54(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Clerk is ordered to enter this Judgment forthwith and without further notice.

XI.

This Consent Judgment constitutes a final judgment of the Court, resolving all issues remaining in the case and constituting a final order against Defendant. All pending motions shall be terminated from the docket.

The Clerk is directed to close this civil action, subject to reopening in the event Defendant violates the terms of this Consent Judgment.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



WAVERLY D. CRENSHAW, JR.
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE